

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT		
SUBJECT	Vitkovice Klement Gottwald Iron Works in Ostrava	DATE DISTR.	13 September 1955	25X1
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. The Vitkovice Klement Gottwald Iron Works, National Enterprise, in Ostrava, has the widest range of iron and steel products in the country and is much the biggest iron and steel plant. Apart from the iron and steel departments, there is a separate Engineering Section, not under the Ministry of Foundries and Ore Mines. The Engineering Section manufactures bridges, boilers and boiler equipment, construction material, factory plant, and so on. It obtains its raw material from other sections of the Vitkovice Works. 25X1
2. The iron and steel products of the Vitkovice Works include: heavy and light forgings, and castings; rails; welded and seamless tubes; precision steel tubes; pig iron, which is the best produced in any works in Czechoslovakia; and rolled steel products, including low grade, but not high grade, refined alloy steel. There are a good many orders from the Ministry of Defense, including armor plate and solid shafts for gun barrels. No details are known.
3. All major installations are of the pre-war period. The blast furnaces (number not certain) are very old. There are 10 rolling mills, including Mannesmann, Pilger (reciprocating rolling press) and Stiefel mills, a Svinov tube-rolling mill which turns out tubes of up to three-inch diameter, a mill for precision tubes, and a sheet-rolling mill. There is both hot and cold reducing plant. Mills are convertible, but switches are made infrequently.
4. Three full shifts are worked. The number of workers can only be guessed: there are at least 25,000 but there may be up to 40,000.
5. Output cannot be estimated: it is certainly many hundred thousand tons of all products. 25X1
6. The output of forgings exceeds the facilities for finishing. More equipment for this is being sought. 25X1

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7. The products are for home consumption, including Ministry of Defense, and export both to East and West.
8. These works have less labor problems than most. A great many of the pre-war staff have remained, which leads to continuity and a feeling of traditional pride.
9. The source of power is thermoelectric.
10. The managing director is Belfin (fnu), an ardent Communist. The chief engineer is a first-class technician and not a Communist.

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